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Approved For Release 2003/12/02 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000100070003-3

10 October 1956

File copy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR:

This memorandum recommends action in paragraph 4.

1. Attention is invited to the attached copy of an article from "The Task Force," which is in fact a press release by "The Defenders of the American Constitution, Inc."

The "Defenders etc." was organized around 1954 by Lieut. Gen. Pedro del Valle, USMC (Retired); and two Washington, D. C., lawyers, the late Colonel John H. Coffman, and Eugene C. Pomeroy. Pomeroy's law office on New Hampshire Avenue, N. W., is the "headquarters" of the "Defenders." Its executive council includes Major General Claire Chennault, USAF (Retired), and Brig. Gen. Bommer Fellers, USA (Retired), and Dr. Lee de Forest, distinguished radio pioneer. Del Valle has been active, with the help of the "Defenders" in trying to organize a third political party for the Presidential elections of this year. He is quoted as describing his organization as "pro-American, right wing, or nationalist." He is said to back the following: Senators McCarthy, Jenner, Bridges, Bricker, Byrd, Eastland, Knowland, Malone, and Thurmond; Governor J. Bracken Lee of Utah; Governor Herman Talmadge of Georgia; Herbert Hoover, Clarence Manion, and General Douglas MacArthur.

2. Congresswoman Church, of Illinois, had her assistant, Mrs. Isley, phone re a letter from a constituent who had read "Task Force" and complied with the request to write his Congressman to have the CIA investigated. She wanted to know if we would put out a statement in answer to the charges. I told her of our policy not to deny or confirm what is said about us, but that Norman Paul, the CIA Legislative Counsel, would be pleased to assist her in any way we could if she had any further questions. I gave her some background on del Valle and on the British author, Peter J. Huxley-Blythe, and told her that the extreme statements by a Britisher against the CIA were so ridiculous as to be considered not worthy of any reply other than ridicule. She appeared to agree. She said that she will phone Pomeroy to see if he has anything to say. She said that she had asked the Un-American Activities Committee re the "Defenders" and they had nothing. The Library of Congress is trying to get her some data on the history, aims, etc., of the "Defenders."

3. I discussed this with Mr. Kirkpatrick, who is familiar with the anti-CIA efforts of del Valle and Huxley-Blythe. Norman Paul turned over to me a copy of the "Task Force" which came to him because [redacted] of CRR got it from someone in the office of Congressman Miller, who knew Hoyt was with CIA. Security also has a copy [redacted]. Representative Church's office said that the letter she received indicated that letters also had been sent to Senators Douglas and Dirksen.

The Press has not picked up this story.

Mr. McKillipps of Cong. Miller's office (Md.) called Mr. Paul and talked to him about the above on 18 Oct. 1956.

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h. Recommend CIA not take it too seriously and we laugh it off as a "ridiculous" statement in unofficial comment, but officially we "have no comment."

STANLEY J. GREGAN
Assistant to the Director

Attachment

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Add
1 - SO
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The recommendation of para. h is

APPROVED _____

DISAPPROVED _____

E. F. CANNY
Lt. Gen., USAF
Acting Director

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	Mr. Norman Paul		
X	Rm 330 Admin		
3			
4	Col Ingram	JRB	10/9/56
5	Mr. Paul		
6			
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks: Per our conversation Congressman Miller's Office will probably be contacting to find out he can answer a constituent who presented this to him. [Redacted] OPR has made up on this if you need it.			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
S AND PHONE NO.		DATE	
OPR			